

Environmental Considerations

Federal Aviation Administration

Western-Pacific Region

1st Annual Airports Conference

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Pre - NEPA

➤ Planning Document Status

- Master Plan
 - Project Definition
 - Purpose & Need
 - Alternatives
 - Forecasts
 - FAA Approved

➤ Airport Layout Plan

- Conditional Approval
 - Proposed Projects included

NEPA

➤ WHAT IS IT?

- National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
- Basic National Charter for Protection of the Environment
- Directs federal agencies to act according to the letter and spirit of the Act

➤ WHAT TRIGGERS IT?

- The NEPA Process Addresses Impacts of Federal Actions on the Human Environment

NEPA

- WHAT ARE “FEDERAL ACTIONS?”
 - All Airport Improvement Program Grants
 - All Plans Submitted to FAA that Require FAA Approval
 - Airport Layout Plans
 - Wildlife Hazard Management Plans

Environmental Guidance

- FAA Order 1050.1E – *Environmental Impacts: Policies & Procedures*
 - Effective June 2004
- FAA Order 5050.4A – *Airports Environmental Handbook*
 - Being Updated
 - Draft 5050.4B
 - Released December 2004
 - Currently Considering Comments

Related Environmental Laws

- Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act
- Endangered Species Act
- Clean Air Act
- Clean Water Act
- National Historic Preservation Act
- Coastal Zone Management Act
- Various Executive Orders
- Other Federal Agency Permits/Concurrences

NEPA Documentation

➤ Document Levels

- Categorical Exclusion (CE)
- Environmental Assessment (EA)
- Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

➤ Level of Document to Prepare

- Consult with Environment Protection Specialist prior to proceeding

Categorical Exclusion

➤ Requirements

- FAA Order 1050.1E – Chapter 3
 - Categorical Exclusion List
 - Paragraphs 307 through 312
 - Keyed to FAA lines of business such as ATO = Air Traffic Organization and APP = Airports Program
 - Extraordinary Circumstances
 - Paragraph 304

Environmental Assessments

- Chapter 4 – 1050.1E
- Coordinate with EPS Early
 - Scope of Work Complete
 - Preliminary Document Sections
 - Purpose and Need
 - Alternatives
 - Work Load
 - Regulatory Agency Coordination

EA Format

- Executive Summary
- Project Description
- Purpose and Need for Proposed Action
- Alternatives
- Affected Environment (existing conditions)
 - Each Environmental Resource Category
- Environmental Consequences
 - Equally Compare Each Alternative
- Mitigation
- Agencies and Persons Consulted
- List of Preparers
 - Names and Qualifications
- Appendices

Recommendations

- Write clear and concise documents
 - Establish key environmental baseline conditions
 - Identify the applicable standards to determine “impact” and its significance
 - Provide sufficient data on which to evaluate impacts and to support conclusions
- Provide a sufficient purpose and need statement
 - The need for the project must be justified
 - Include relevant forecasts and/or other statistical information
 - Describe the facts surrounding the problem

Recommendations

- Ensure sufficient scoping
 - Provide outreach to potential effected community or agencies
- Provide sufficient alternatives analysis
 - Consider all reasonable alternatives through detailed analysis
 - No action alternative
 - Proposed action
 - Reasonable alternatives being dropped for non-environmental justification
 - Project the future environmental condition for all alternatives including No Action alternative

Recommendations

- Provide adequate description of mitigation
 - Do not attempt to negotiate mitigation in advance of identification of environmental impacts
 - Description of mitigation should be clear, concise, and easily discernable
- Verify FAA has completed regulatory agency coordination

Recommendations

➤ Joint NEPA/CEQA Document

- Prepare a single document with distinct and separate NEPA and CEQA evaluations based upon a set of technical evaluations that are included as appendices.
 - Avoids confusion that occurs when NEPA and CEQA evaluations and determinations are mixed

➤ Do not take construction actions prior to NEPA decision!

Contact List

➤ If and when in doubt call an EPS:

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